NEWINGTON-DOVER NHS-027-1(037), 11238

- N O T I C E O F H E A R I N G -

The Special Committee in accordance with RSA 230:45 and the Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1987, have set a public hearing to discuss proposed alterations to the Spaulding Turnpike from Exit 1 through 6, including the Little Bay Bridges, in the Town of Newington and City of Dover.

The meeting will be held in the Gymnasium at Saint Thomas Aquinas High School, 197 Dover Point Road, Dover, NH on Thursday, September 21, 2006 at 7:00 P.M.

THE GYMNASIUM WILL BE OPEN BETWEEN 3:30 P.M. and 6:30 P.M. PRIOR TO THE TIME OF HEARING FOR THE INSPECTION OF PLANS BY ANY INTERESTED PERSONS.

On July 19, 2006, the Governor and Council appointed Councilor Ruth L. Griffin, Councilor Peter J. Spaulding and Councilor Raymond J. Wieczorek as a Special Committee to conduct the hearing to determine whether there is the occasion for the laying out of the highway.

This is a joint public hearing with the NH Department of Environmental Services - Wetlands Bureau, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the Federal Highway Administration.

The Department of Environmental Services' public hearing is being held in accordance with RSA 482-A, on the application of the NH Department of Transportation, File Number 2006-02007, to dredge and fill wetlands on properties located in Newington and Dover associated with alterations to the Spaulding Turnpike and the Little Bay Bridges.

The US Army Corps of Engineers' public hearing is being held under jurisdiction of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 320 through 330 published in the November 13, 1986 Federal Register. The NH Department of Transportation has applied for a Department of the Army permit to impact waters of the United States, which will be evaluated under Section 404(b)(1) guidelines and all factors affecting the public interest.

The Federal Highway Administration's public hearing is being held in accordance with the requirements of the Council on Environmental Quality and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 regulations and associated guidance documents with reference to providing environmental oversight and financial assistance to the NH Department of Transportation.

This written notice is being provided to owners of land in the project area, and to all others interested by posting a like copy in at least two (2) public places in the said Town of Newington and City of Dover, and leaving a like copy with the Town Clerks and Tax Collectors of the Town of Newington and City of Dover at least fourteen (14) days before the said day of hearing.

Interested landowners, local officials and highway users are welcome and will be given the opportunity to express their feelings relative to the location. The testimony will be recorded.

Relocation assistance will be furnished each owner or tenant whose improvements or property will be acquired for this project, based on their eligibility.

This project will impact floodplains, properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and approximately 20.4 acres of wetlands.

Maps, plans, permit applications, the environmental studies and other pertinent information developed by the Department, along with written views received as a result of the coordination with other agencies is available at the Department of Transportation at the John O. Morton Building, 7 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire for inspection and copying. It is suggested you call Chris Waszczuk, Project Manager at (603) 271-6675 in advance for an appointment.

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared and is available for public review. Copies are available at the Department's headquarters, the city and town offices and public libraries.

Written statements and other exhibits may be submitted to the Chairman of the Special Committee, c/o James Moore, Director of Project Development, the State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 483, Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0483 up to ten (10) days after the date of the hearing for inclusion in the official record.

Implementation of the project will be accomplished by a series of construction projects. The first construction project is targeted for advertisement for bid in the fall of 2009, with right-of-way acquisitions to be undertaken in the spring of 2008.

Any individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication equipment due to sensory impairment or other disability, should contact William P. Janelle, Bureau of Right-of-Way, NHDOT, P.O. Box 483, Concord, N.H. 03302-0483 - TDD access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance must be made no later than 7 days before the hearing. This project will be administered according to the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes to ensure nondiscrimination.

(Signed) Carol A. Murray
Commissioner
NH Department of Transportation

Dated at Concord, N.H.
this 14th day of August, 2006

- P E T I T I O N -

To His Excellency, the Governor, and the Honorable Executive Council:

In accordance with RSA 230:45 I, Carol A. Murray, Commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, propose that alterations be made to the Spaulding Turnpike from Exit 3-6 to include the Little Bay Bridges in the Town of Newington and City of Dover at the location given below:

NEWINGTON-DOVER, NHS-027-1(37), 11238

Beginning at a point in the travel way of the Spaulding Turnpike (NH Route 16) north of Exit 1 (Gosling Road Interchange) in the Town of Newington, NH and continuing northerly approximately 3.5 miles to the Dover Toll Plaza, just north of Exit 6 (US Route 4) in the City of Dover, NH.

The layout involves the reconstruction and widening of the Little Bay Bridges and the Spaulding Turnpike. Between Exits 1 and 3, the Turnpike will be shifted slightly to the west and widened to create three lanes in each direction to match the section south of Exit 1. Between Exits 3 and 6, the Little Bay Bridges and the Turnpike will be reconstructed on new alignment and widened to create four lanes (three travel lanes and one auxiliary lane) in each direction. North of Exit 6, the Turnpike will be widened to create three lanes in each direction to match into the Dover Toll Plaza. The project layout continues and expands the Limited Access Right-of-Way designation that exists for the Turnpike interchanges and connector roadways, with modifications as appropriate to accommodate the proposed infrastructure improvements.

The layout includes the reconstruction, reconfiguration, and consolidation of the interchanges along the Spaulding Turnpike at Exit 2 (Fox Run Road), Exit 3 (Woodbury Avenue), Exit 4 (Nimble Hill Road and Shattuck Way), Exit 5 (Hilton Drive) and Exit 6 (US Route 4 and Dover Point Road). The Exit 2 ramps at Fox Run Road will be eliminated and traffic routed to Exit 3. Exit 3 will be reconfigured to a full service interchange with access provided to the Pease Tradeport and Arboretum Drive. A portion of Arboretum Drive, approximately 1000 feet in length, will be relocated to form a new signalized intersection at the terminus of the new southbound Exit 3 ramps and terminus of the extended section of Woodbury Avenue. Woodbury Avenue will be reconstructed from the intersection of Fox Run Road and extended through the Exit 3 interchange area. The Exit 4N median reverse direction ramps (previously discontinued under a separate project) will be eliminated. Exit 4 will be adjusted to maintain the on and off-ramps at Nimble Hill Road and Shattuck Way. Access to Nimble Hill Road from properties directly adjacent to the Turnpike and adjacent to the on and off-ramps will be modified; a new local roadway will be constructed to provide access to the affected properties. Work on Nimble Hill Road will begin at the intersection with Shattuck Way and the new local road and continue approximately 600 feet to the Turnpike. The work to the exiting northbound Exit 4 ramps will be limited to the area directly adjacent to Shattuck Way. The Exit 5 ramps will be discontinued and a new local two-way Connector Road, from Wentworth Terrace and Hilton Park, under the Turnpike to connect with Dover Point Road will be constructed. The existing ramps from Cote Drive to the Turnpike will be discontinued.

Exit 6 will be reconstructed to a full service modified diamond-type interchange. The work on US Route 4 will begin at the southern end of the Scammell Bridge and continue over the Turnpike connecting to Dover Point Road and ending at the intersection with Homestead Lane. Signalized intersections at the southbound ramps, the northbound ramps and Dover Point Road are anticipated. The existing signalized intersection on US Route 4 with Boston Harbor Road and Spur Road will be modified to eliminate the traffic signal and restrict movements to right-turns only. A new local two-way connector road from Spur Road, beneath US Route 4, to Boston Harbor Road with access to the southbound on-ramps will be constructed.

The General Sullivan Bridge will be rehabilitated to function as a pedestrian/bicycle/recreational facility with the ability to carry emergency and maintenance vehicles from the Newington side. The northern approach embankment will be removed and the northern end of the bridge modified to accommodate the two-way local connector road and allow for continued pedestrian, bicycle and recreational use.

The layout also includes all potential mitigation and stormwater management areas as may be required to comply with State and Federal permitting requirements and best management practices as shown on the project plans. Further evaluation and coordination with State and Federal agencies will be required to determine the final components of the mitigation package, and in turn, the specific parcels, or portions there of, to be acquired.

The layout also includes the accommodation for a future elevated rail spur line that would extend from the east along the existing rail spur alignment over the Turnpike to the west into the Pease Tradeport.

The limitation of access previously established for the Spaulding Turnpike will be maintained and expanded to cover any non-interchange accesses. No access will be allowed to the Turnpike except via designated interchanges.

The project further identifies new Park and Ride facilities near Exit 9 in Dover, Exit 13 in Rochester, and near the US Route 4 and NH Route 125 intersection in Lee. Also, other travel demand management components including improvements to bus and rail, and support for employer-based measures will be considered.

Therefore, in accordance with RSA 230:45 I, Carol A. Murray, Commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, propose that such alterations be made to the Spaulding Turnpike from Exit 3-6 to include the Little Bay Bridges in the Town of Newington and City of Dover.

(Signed) Carol A. Murray
Commissioner

Dated at Concord, N.H. this
17th day of May, A.D., 2006.